

50/Reconsideration
4/15/04

Attorney Docket No. 0756-2339



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Jun KOYAMA et al.

Serial No. 09/902,622

Filed: July 12, 2001

For: DRIVE CIRCUIT OF ACTIVE MATRIX
TYPE DISPLAY DEVICE HAVING
BUFFER WITH PARALLEL
CONNECTED ELEMENTAL
CIRCUITS AND MANUFACTURING
METHOD THEREFOR

) Group Art Unit: 2676

) Examiner: A. Blackman

) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 29, 2004.

Adelene Stamps

RECEIVED

APR 06 2004

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

The Official Action mailed October 29, 2003, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for Two Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to March 29, 2004. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on July 12, 2001, September 26, 2001, November 2, 2001, February 4, 2003, June 9, 2003, and September 11, 2003. However, the Applicants have not received acknowledgment of the IDS filed on September 25, 2003. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of the IDS filed September 25, 2003.

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 14, 16, 18, 21, 25 and 29 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all

claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 2 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-32 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 11, 14, 19, 23 and 27 of U.S. Patent No. 6,496,171 to Yamazaki.

As stated in MPEP § 804, under the heading "Obviousness-Type," in order to form an obviousness-type double patenting rejection, a claim in the present application must define an invention that is merely an obvious variation of an invention claimed in the prior art patent, and the claimed subject matter must not be patentably distinct from the subject matter claimed in a commonly owned patent. Also, the patent principally underlying the double patenting rejection is not considered prior art.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the obviousness-type double patenting rejection because independent claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 14, 16, 18, 21, 25 and 29 of the present invention are patentably distinct from the claims of Yamazaki. The claims of Yamazaki do not teach or suggest the allowable subject matter as set forth in the "Allowable Subject Matter" section of the Notice of Allowability mailed September 17, 2002. Specifically, "none of the recited prior art ... teach or suggest either singly or in combination an active matrix device wherein '... a circuit of one buffer [connected] to one signal line is positioned on a same line as a circuit of another buffer circuit connected to another signal line'" (page 2, Paper No. 10). The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Yamazaki do not teach or suggest at least the above-referenced features of the present invention.

Contrary to the above-noted indication of allowable subject matter in the Notice of Allowability, the Official Action now asserts that "it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the analog switches and buffer circuits corresponding to the plurality of source signal lines of the patent bears similar results to the one of at least two circuits of one of the analog buffer circuits is positioned along the same line as the column lines as one of said at least two circuits of another one of the

analog buffer circuits of the application" (pages 2-3, Paper No. 25). The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the above assertion. The Official Action is completely silent as to how or why the above features of the present invention are obvious based on the claims of Yamazaki.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is patentably distinct from the claims of the Yamazaki patent. Reconsideration of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285

Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C.
PMB 955
21010 Southbank Street
Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165
(571) 434-6789